

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior claims:

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A stacking device for strip segments, comprising:
a stacking shaft exhibiting two side walls and a rear wall;
a motor-driven shaft floor which is retirable in accordance with a progressive build-up of the stack;
a stacking lock with retractable hold-down devices and retractable press-down devices alternately engaging on the strip segments; and
a light barrier assigned to the hold-down devices, which light barrier is responsive to bulging strip segments in order to retire the motor-driven shaft floor at least to a point where the light barrier is unbroken.
18. (Previously presented) The stacking device as defined in claim 17, wherein the side walls are adjustable to a length of the strip segments to be stacked.
19. (Previously presented) The stacking device as defined in claim 17, wherein the shaft floor has a slide assigned to one of the side walls, which slide is transportable along the side wall.
20. (Previously presented) The stacking device as defined in claim 19, wherein the slide has a dedicated drive.
21. (Previously presented) The stacking device as defined in claim 19, wherein the slide is connected to a linear gear.

22. (Previously presented) The stacking device as defined in claim 21, wherein the linear gear includes a rotary toothed belt.

23. (Previously presented) The stacking device as defined in claim 19, wherein a guide is disposed on the slide so that the guide extends over a maximum width of the stacking shaft.

24. (Previously presented) The stacking device as defined in claim 23, wherein the guide has two guide rods on which supports for floor parts of the shaft floor are displaceably disposed, which supports are adjustable in terms of their mutual spacing.

25. (Previously presented) The stacking device as defined in claim 24, wherein one of supports faces away from the slide and is configured as a connecting member displaceable on the assigned side wall.

26. (Previously presented) The stacking device as defined in claim 17, wherein rear wall strips are provided on a back of the side walls.

27. (Previously presented) The stacking device as defined in claim 17, wherein the stacking shaft is arranged substantially vertically.

28. (Previously presented) The stacking device as defined in claim 17, wherein the stacking shaft is angled backward.

29. (Previously presented) The stacking device as defined in claim 17, wherein the stacking shaft has a guide member for the stack, the guide member being disposed between the side walls and extending over a length of the stacking shaft and being adjustable in terms of distance to the rear wall of the stacking shaft and, in terms of position between the side walls.

30. (Previously presented) The stacking device as defined in claim 17, wherein the stacking shaft is open in an upward direction and is configured to allow a packing container to be slipped over.

31. (Previously presented) The stacking device as defined in claim 17, wherein the stacking lock is fixed and the stacking shaft is displaceable parallel to the rear wall, at least between a stacking position and an unloading position.

32. (Previously presented) The stacking device as defined in claim 31, wherein the stacking shaft is additionally displaceable into a stand-by position.

33. (Previously presented) The stacking device as defined in claim 31, wherein the rear wall is configured as a fixed back plate, on which the side walls of the stacking shaft are disposed so that the side walls are displaceable transversely to a stacking direction.

34. (Previously presented) The stacking device as defined in claim 17, wherein the hold-down devices are configured as laterally extensible and retractable pins.

35. (Previously presented) The stacking device as defined in claim 17, wherein the press-down devices are configured as rakes which can be swung in and out against the stacking shaft.